

Message Text

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SUBJECT: TELECOMMUNICATIONS -- HARMONIZATION AT THE EUROPEAN LEVEL

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 3269 (E) EC BRUSSELS 6341

(B) STATE 141900 (F) EC BRUSSELS 6441

(C) STATE 153436 (G) MADRID 5089

(D) EC BRUSSELS 5529 (H) STATE 184604

SUMMARY. IN ANSWER TO EMBASSY'S INQUIRIES ABOUT PLANNED REORGANIZATION OF EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATIONS (CEPT), TORSTEN LARSSON, SWEDISH HEAD OF CEPT TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, SAID THAT CEPT APPROVED ESTABLISHMENT OF THREE NEW HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEES UNCLASSIFIED

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UNDER TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION DURING TORRENOLINOS MEETING LAST APRIL: COORDINATION COMMITTEE ON HARMONIZATION (CCH), TRANSATLANTIC LIAISON COMMITTEE (CLTA), AND SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSION OF DATA (CSTD). REORGANIZATION OF WORKING

GROUPS, AIMED AT EXPEDITING WORK OF COMMITTEES, WILL NOT BE DECIDED UNTIL EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION IN MALMO, SWEDEN NEXT DECEMBER. COMMISSION IS ALSO LIKELY TO DECIDE THEN TO ALLOW INDUSTRY TO PARTICIPATE IN WORKING GROUPS CONCERNED WITH HARMONIZATION OF EUROPEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS. LARSSON SEEMED RECEPTIVE TO IDEA OF SOME FORM OF US ASSOCIATION WITH CCH AND ASKED FOR OUR IDEAS ON NATURE OF THIS ASSOCIATION. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF MET AUGUST 25 WITH TORSTEN LARSSON, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, SWEDISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATION (TELEVERKET) AND RUBEN NASLUND, ECONOMIC DIVISION, TELEVERKET, TO DISCUSS CEPT REORGANIZATION PLANS. THEY PROVIDED FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

2. CEPT HAS TWO PARALLEL AREAS OF ACTIVITY, ORGANIZED UNDER A POSTAL COMMISSION AND A TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION. PLANNED RESTRUCTURING OF CEPT IS CONFINED TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS SIDE. BERTIL BJUREL, GENERAL DIRECTOR OF SWEDISH TELEVERKET, IS PRESIDENT OF ENTIRE CEPT ORGANIZATION; LARSSON IS HEAD OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, AND OVE RAINER, GENERAL DIRECTOR OF SWEDISH POSTAL ADMINISTRATION (POST VERKET), IS HEAD OF POSTAL COMMISSION.

3. AT ITS LAST PLENARY SESSION IN TORRENOLINOS IN APRIL, CEPT APPROVED ESTABLISHMENT OF THREE NEW HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEES UNDER TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION. THESE ARE COORDINATION COMMITTEE ON HARMONIZATION (CCH), TRANSATLANTIC LIAISON COMMITTEE (CLTA), AND SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSION OF DATA (CSTD). CHAIRMEN OF THE THREE COMMITTEES ARE, RESPECTIVELY, WALDEMAR HAIST, FRG (REF F), TORSTEN LARSSON, SWEDEN; AND CHARLES-HERVE COTTEN, FRANCE. NEW COMMITTEES WILL EXIST ALONGSIDE COMMITTEE FOR COORDINATION OF SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS (CCTS) WHICH HAS UNTIL NOW BEEN ONLY PERMANENT COMMITTEE UNDER TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION.

4. FOLLOWING TERMS OF REFERENCE WERE ADOPTED FOR CCH:
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QUOTE -- TO GIVE ANY NECESSARY DIRECTIVES TO ACHIEVE
COORDINATION FOR HARMONIZATION OF
SERVICES OFFERED TO SUBSCRIBERS;
OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES OF TELECOMMUNICA-
TION SYSTEMS;
TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR SYSTEMS AND
EQUIPMENT;
PROCEDURES AND TECHNICAL CONDITIONS FOR
TYPE APPROVAL OF SUBSCRIBER APPARATUS;
-- TO DIRECT WORK OF HARMONIZATION IN WORKING GROUPS
CONCERNED ACCORDING TO ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE
AND TO SUPERVISE ADHERENCE TO ESTABLISHED
TIME LIMITS;

-- TO ANSWER FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF NECESSARY
CONTACTS WITH EEC AND OTHER ORGANS OUTSIDE
CEPT CONCERNED WITH WORK OF COMMITTEE. UNQUOTE

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CLTA AND CSTD WILL BE SENT SEPARATELY.

5. EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION TO BE HELD NEXT DECEMBER IN MALMO WILL DECIDE ON REORGANIZATION OF WORKING GROUPS (WG'S) AND RESTRUCTURING OF THEIR RELATIONSHIPS TO COMMITTEES. CURRENT WG'S ARE: TG: TELEGRAPHY, TELEX, AND DATA TRANSMISSION; TPH: TECHNICAL, OPERATING AND TARIFF ASPECTS OF TELEPHONY; R: RADION; TTVS: SOUND AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING; PGT: GENERAL TARIFF PRINCIPLES; TTT: PROCESSING AND TRANSMISSION TECHNIQUES; SF: SERVICES AND FACILITIES OFFERED TO CUSTOMERS; AND ELT: LONG-TERM PLANNING. LARSSON EXPECTED THAT SOME OF BIGGER WG'S WOULD BE DIVIDED WITH RESULT THAT THERE WOULD BE LARGER NUMBER THAN BEFORE. REORGANIZATION IS AIMED AT SIMPLIFYING STRUCTURAL RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN COMMISSION AND SPEEDING TIS WORK. WG'S WILL BE ABLE TO WORK DIRECTLY BOTH WITH OVERALL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AND WITH THE FOUR COMMITTEES. THESE WILL BE ABLE TO ACT WITHOUT REFERENCE TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION. CCH WILL MEET NOVEMBER 11-14 IN MUNICH TO DISCUSS SUGGESTIONS IT WILL MAKE AT DECEMBER MEETING.

6. DECEMBER MEETING WILL ALSO DECIDE WHAT INPUT INDUSTRY WILL MAKE INTO CCH HARMONIZATION EFFORTS. LARSSON SAID
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INDUSTRY HAS NOT BEEN INVOLVED UP TO NOW BUT HE BELIEVED IT MUST BE. HE THOUGHT IT PROBABLE THAT INDUSTRY WOULD TAKE PART IN WG'S ON TECHNICAL LEVEL BUT DOUBTED THAT IT WOULD BE ALLOWED TO MEET WITH CCH AT POLICY LEVEL. MEETING MUST DECIDE WHETHER EUROPEAN SUBSIDIARIES OF AMERICAN COMPANIES WILL BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN WG'S.

7. LARSSON SPECULATED THAT ITU WILL BE HARD HIT BY EUROPEAN HARMONIZATIONS EFFORT, PARTICULARLY IF US IS ASSOCIATED WITH IT. EUROPE AND US MIGHT HAVE STRONG OPINIONS ON STANDARDS MATTERS AT ITU MEETINGS. WITHOUT THEIR CONCURRENCE, ITU STANDARDS WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE INTERNATIONALLY.

8. EMBOFF RECEIVED CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT LARSSON WAS NOT ADVERSE TO SOME SORT OF US ASSOCIATION WITH CCH. HE ASKED WHERE POINT OF CONTACT WOULD BE IN USG AND WAS TOLD STATE DEPARTMENT (REF C). LARSSON INVITED US SUGGESTIONS ON FORM OUR ASSOCIATION MIGHT TAKE AND SUGGESTED FOLLOW-UP MEETING WITH EMBOFF.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT REQUESTED TO PROVIDE ITS VIEWS REGARDING NATURE OF US ASSOCIATION TO ENABLE EMBASSY TO RESPOND TO LARSSON.

STRAUSZ-HUPE

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